

ing upon the sea-urchins or not, although several of the echinoderms still had their soft parts adhering to the "shells." Our sea-urchin is often left by a retreating tide in the pools where it could be easily seen and taken without difficulty by the Crows. In autumnal and winter gales multitudes are washed up on the beaches to the line of the highest reach of the tides.—J. WALTER FEWKES, *Cambridge, Mass.*

**Nest and Eggs of Couch's Tyrant Flycatcher** (*T. melancholicus couchi*).—A nest and four fresh eggs, together with both parents of this same species, were taken by my collector, Mr. Bourbois, at Lomita Ranch, on the Rio Grande, Texas, in 1881. I believe this set to be unique (at least so far as the United States fauna is concerned), and worthy of a description.

The nest was situated some twenty feet from the ground, on a small lateral branch of a large elm, in a fine grove not far from the houses of the ranch. It is composed of small elm twigs, with a little Spanish moss and a few branchlets and leaves of the growing elm intermixed. The sides of the nest are lined with fine rootlets, the bottom with the black hair-like heart of the Spanish moss. The outside diameter is 6 inches, and the depth 2 inches. The inside diameter is 3 inches, and the depth 1.25 inches.

The eggs, while having a general resemblance to those of all our Tyrant Flycatchers, are quite distinct in form, size, and ground-color from any others I have seen. The blotches, too, are more numerous and smaller. The large end is very round, and the small end quite pointed. The measurements of the four eggs are as follows: 1.00 × .76, .99 × .76, .98 × .76, .97 × .72, averaging .985 of an inch in length and .75 of an inch in breadth. The ground-color is a rich buff. The general color of the blotches is similar to that of the Kingbird's eggs, and their distribution irregular over the entire egg, but massed about the greatest diameter.

If this set proves to be typical I should have no trouble in selecting the eggs of this species from any number of eggs of other species of the genus.—GEO. B. SENNETT, *Meadville, Pa.*

**Recent Occurrence of the Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker in Massachusetts.**—Mr. E. H. Richards of Woburn, Mass., writes me that two specimens of *Picoides arcticus* have been taken in that town the past autumn. The first was shot Oct. 16, the other two days later. Both were adult males. A third example was also seen Oct. 21, in Holbrook, Mass.—WILLIAM BREWSTER, *Cambridge, Mass.*

**A Woodpecker destroying Cocoons.**—This habit of the Woodpecker is something new to me, and may have an interest for others. It was observed by my friend, Mr. Frank W. Ritchie, who, writing from Lennoxville, Quebec, under date of November 21, says: "A few days since I discovered a Downy Woodpecker tearing open a cocoon. I drove the bird away several times, but it persisted until it had gathered the contents. I also noticed near by two other cocoons which had been emptied similarly."—MONTAGUE CHAMBERLAIN, *St. John, N. B.*